

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice and Request for Approval of a New Information Collection

AGENCIES: Farm Service Agency and the Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request approval of a new information collection in support of the peanut poundage quota program as authorized by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (1996 Act).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before October 26, 1998 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Amy Kriskovich, Marketing Specialist, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0514, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0514, (202) 720-7120, facsimile (202) 690-1536; Internet e-mail, amykriskovich@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Peanuts, 7 CFR part 729.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0186.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The 1996 Act provides for a non-refundable peanut marketing assessment (PMA) to be collected from peanut handlers and peanut producers. Peanut handlers are responsible for remitting the PMA to CCC. Peanut handlers have the option to pay the PMA using a new PMA payment alternative, NationsBank DirectPay touch-tone phone service. Peanut

handlers must enroll in the NationsBank DirectPay service by registering on form CCC-1047, Authorization Agreement For Peanut Handler's Automatic Marketing Assessment Payments. NationsBank DirectPay service allows peanut handlers to make automated PMA payments to CCC.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response.

Respondents: Peanut Handlers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30.

Estimated Total Annual Burden of Respondents: 5 hours.

Comments are requested regarding, but not limited to: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments should be sent to the Desk Office for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to Charles Hatcher, at the address listed above. All comments will become a matter of public record.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection(s) of information contained in these proposed regulations between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 60 days of publication.

Signed at Washington, DC, on August 18, 1998.

George W. Aldaya,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Issuance of Additional Secured Debt by Electric Distribution Borrowers

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby issues a generic notice to those electric distribution borrowers that presently have mortgages that prohibit the issuance of additional secured debt without the consent of RUS (i.e., most mortgages entered into before 1996) that RUS hereby approves their issuance of additional secured notes, provided that the terms and conditions contained in the model forms of mortgage and loan contract in use by RUS since January 1996 are satisfied.

DATES: This generic approval extends to electric distribution borrowers who notified RUS of their intention to issue additional secured debt on or after February 20, 1998, under the circumstances set out in this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Arnold, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1560, Room 4024-S, Washington, DC 20250-1500. Phone: 202-690-1078. FAX: 202-690-0717. E-mail: sarnold@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) makes and guarantees loans for electric facilities to serve consumers in rural areas pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). These loans are ordinarily secured through the use of a common mortgage with RUS and at least one supplemental lender.

Under the form of common mortgage RUS used from the early 1970's until early 1996 (Old Mortgage), the borrower could not issue additional secured debt without first obtaining the approval of RUS. RUS exercised broad discretion in exercising its right to approve additional secured debt case-by-case. The exercise of rights in these cases is sometimes referred to as approving a "lien accommodation," (although that broad term also encompasses many other similar actions by RUS that are not